REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claim 7 to correct language rendering the claim indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. In particular the Examiner stated that the phrase "and/or" renders the claim indefinite. The Applicant has amended claim 7 to eliminate the objectionable phrases.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 15, 16 and 34. No amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

Response to Arguments

In the **Response to Arguments** of the Detailed Action, the Examiner indicated that the emphasized limitation regarding a plurality of identifiers in claim 1 (shown below) was disclosed in the Chang and Philyaw references. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the limitation in both the obviousness rejection and the **Response to Arguments** of the current Office Action. The characterization of the limitation is that of a user identifier and as will be discussed below the present invention recites a plurality of identifiers.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-10, 12, 14, 17-20, 22, 25-31, and 33-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al (hereinafter Chang) U.S. Patent 6,681,114 in view of Philyaw (hereinafter Philyaw) U.S. Patent 6,835,709. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The previous paragraph is not found in the Detailed Action. The Applicant believes that it was inadvertently left out because the individual claim rejections are discussed in the following paragraphs of the Detailed Action. The Applicant has taken the liberty of adding the rejection language and presenting arguments to the rejections. However, if the Examiner intended to allow the subject claims the Applicant will be delighted to accept the allowance. Assuming the rejection stands; the Applicant will present the arguments.

The Applicant's present invention discloses a mechanism for distributing user identifiers among different network servers with each network server being in charge of the user with a specific user identity for a particular service environment associated with each network server. Claim 1, with emphasized limitations is shown below.

> 1. (Previously Presented) In a network resolution domain a User Distribution Server (UDS) disposed to determine from a plurality of network servers a specific network server in charge of a user under a particular service environment, said UDS comprising:
>
> a secondary database having storage for a plurality of user identifiers for identifying the user under different service environments, and selected service data per specific network server and per user basis;
>
> a mechanism for transferring said plurality of user identifiers and selected service data to said secondary database from primary databases associated with respective network servers;
>
> a querying mechanism for receiving a service request from a Service Requester Node; and
>
> a response mechanism for sending a server identifier of said specific network server to the Service Requester Node in response to the service request, wherein the server identifier is usable by said Service Requester Node to determine said specific network server. (emphasis added)

In more detail, the Applicant's present invention, as previously described, discloses a User Distribution Server (UDS) in a network with multiple servers and users.

Each user may be identified by a plurality of user identifiers, each user identifier identifying the user under a particular service environment (subscribers willing to receive a particular service or set of services) and the particular user/service environment combination being associated with a particular server in the network. These particular servers are arranged to act as primary databases from which user identifiers and necessary service data are downloaded into the UDS which acts as secondary database (Fig 1). The UDS answers a service request related query for a specific user to any service requester node by providing the server identifier to further address the particular server currently serving the user in the applicable service environment. (Page 9, line 19 – page 10, line 7) User data for all the users may be distributed among different servers throughout the network, taking into account the number of different identifiers for identifying the user and the services associated with the user (Fig. 1). Primary (servers) and secondary databases (UDS) simplify data handling, allowing changes to be easily managed in primary databases and those changes to be further updated in secondary databases (Abstract). That is, assigning certain user data to any specific network server may be carried out statically, without user participation.

The Philyaw reference discloses a method and apparatus for tracking network activity of a user. A user PC runs tracking server that requires registration on a registration server. The registration server, in response to the user registering user information, sends a unique ID and bar code to the user PC. When the user accesses a vendor on the network user profile information is passed to the vendor and the vendor can extract information for targeting advertising to registered users (Col. 27, lines 1-20). Philyaw also discloses a database that is associated with a Central Registration Server that stores the unique ID and user information in a CRS database. The ID is returned to the user in the form of a bar code having the unique ID number readable by the user. When the user visits a web site server, the user ID/barcode is utilized to track and log the user's activities and the unique ID/barcode is used to obtain user profile information stored in the Central Registration Server database.

The Chang reference discloses an on-demand message system having a profile proxy server coupled to a plurality of message servers for sending multicast messages to mobile users under conditions specified by users and sellers profile information. The user profile information is stored in a profile database associated with a message server that is local to the user's base location, e.g. home address. Each message server includes a profile database for storing user and seller profiles, which are stored dynamically as the user moves from one area to another.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the obviousness rejection noted by the Response did not address "...a plurality of user identifiers..." as stated in claim 1. The rejection (para. 9, line 1) in the current and the previous Office Action was directed to "a user identifier (Fig. 3, profile database 107)" in contrast to the present invention's actual limitation of a plurality of user identifiers. The Applicant has reviewed the cited portions of the references applied to this limitation in the obviousness rejection of the current Office Action and the cited Philyaw reference regarding this limitation in the Response to Arguments. The Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Chang nor Philyaw disclose a plurality of user identifiers; both references disclose the use of only one identifier for the user.

The Chang and Philyaw references both fail to teach a mechanism for transferring a plurality of user identifiers (plurality is not disclosed by Chang) to identify the user under different service environments. Selected service data per specific network server and per user basis are also transferred from primary databases associated with respective network servers towards a secondary database included in the profile proxy server.

The Applicant respectfully that Chang and Philyaw, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest 1) a plurality of user identifiers for use in different service environments, 2) a secondary database for storing the plurality of user identifiers, and 3) a mechanism for transferring the plurality of user identifiers and selected service data to the secondary database. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Additionally, claims 17 and 35 are analogous to claim 1 and contain similar limitations as do the respective dependent claims of each independent claim. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the respective depending claims 2-10, 12, 14, 17-20, 22. 25-31, and 34-35.

Claims 11, 13, 21, 23, 24, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al (hereinafter Chang) U.S. Patent 6,681,114 in view of Philyaw (hereinafter Philyaw) U.S. Patent 6,835,709 and in view of Richard Paul Ejzak, (hereinafter Ejzak) U.S. Patent No. 6,871,070. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

As to claims 11 and 32, Ejzak is cited for teaching a Domain Name Server. However, Ejzak lacks the same limitations that are missing from the Chang and Philyaw references. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Ejzak does not disclose 1) a plurality of user identifiers for use in different service environments, 2) a secondary database for storing the plurality of user identifiers, and 3) a mechanism for transferring the plurality of user identifiers and selected service data to the secondary database.

As to claims 13 and 33, Ejzak is cited for teaching a LDAP. However, as previously noted Ejzak lacks the same limitations that are lacking in the Chang and Philyaw.

As to claim 21, Ejzak is cited for teaching a Domain Name Server. However, Ejzak lacks the same limitations that are missing from the Chang and Philyaw references.

As to claim 24, Ejzak is cited for teaching a Serving Call Status Control Fuinction (S-CSCF). As previously noted, Ejzak does not disclose the limitations that are lacking from the Chang and Philyaw references.

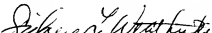
Regarding the rejection of claims 11, 13, 21, 23-24, and 32-33 which depend from independent claims 1, 11 and 17; neither Chang, Philyaw nor Ejzak teach or suggest the limitations recited in the independent claims. The respective depending claims contain the same novel limitations as the independent claims and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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